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Cc: CN=Carolyn Yale/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Tom Hagler/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Luisa Valiela/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Tom Hagler/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Luisa Valiela/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Luisa Valiela/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
From: CN=Sam Ziegler/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Fri 3/20/2009 3:54:04 PM
Subject: Re: Meeting with Laura Yoshii and Feinstein staffers on March 25 in DC

Hi Karen:

Just a few thoughts about including anything on the following:

In terms of restoring water quality.... There are x listings of impaired waters.. the primary source is ag and urban... the primary pollutants include mercury and toxicity... there are TMDLs and implementation...
Reference to SFEP and Bay funds...
Reference to SJR monitoring and the restoration..

Just wondering on the appropriateness of including anything on these items. If you are interested I could try to help develop some "tight" statements along any of these lines. Sam

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See Region 9 watershed priorities at <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/watershed/index.html>

Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US  
03/19/09 04:05 PM  
To Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Carolyn Yale/R9/USEPA/US@EPA  
cc Sam Ziegler/R9/USEPA/US@EPA  
Subject Meeting with Laura Yoshii and Feinstein staffers on March 25 in DC

here's a very rough go at it, to which I'll insert your contributions

#### Issue: San Francisco Bay-Delta Water Management issues

##### Background:

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is the hub of California's water supply system. The Delta supplies a portion of the drinking water for 24 million Californians and water for more than 1,800 agricultural users, which produce half the nation's fruits and vegetables. The Delta is also important habitat for fish, wildlife, and waterfowl, including several threatened and endangered fish species. Concerns about the decline of Delta fisheries, levee instability, increasing urbanization and risks posed by climate change and earthquakes, combined with endangered species litigation related to Delta exports, have led State policy makers to initiate new processes to "fix the Delta".

The Delta is formed by the confluence of the state's two largest rivers: the Sacramento flowing south from its headwaters near Mt. Shasta and the San Joaquin flowing north from its origins high in the southern Sierra Nevada. The 1100 square mile Delta is a web of 60 reclaimed islands and approximately 700 miles of waterways. The Bay-Delta watershed drains nearly 50% of the state's runoff and supports 80% of California's commercial salmon fishery. Large pumps operated by the State and federal government divert 20 to 70% of natural flow (depending on hydrology) to the Central Valley and Southern California. The remaining flow that is not diverted locally flows through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean.

EPA has long been involved in many efforts to protect and restore San Francisco Bay- Delta water quality. One of the more ambitious was the CALFED Bay Delta Program, a state-federal partnership to address water management and ecosystem protection in the entire watershed. Having come to the end of its first phase (2000-2007) of a 30-year program and having spent \$3 billion, CALFED lost much of its support in the face of the Delta's ecosystem decline. In response....the Governor commissioned a blue-ribbon panel in 2004? which recently delivered a "Delta Vision" Strategic Plan, containing many of the same recommendations as the CALFED Program, including a recommendation to pursue a water conveyance around the Delta (i.e., peripheral canal)..... Simultaneously, the major water districts dependent on the Delta began a Habitat Conservation Planning effort (the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, or BDCP) to address endangered species concerns. The State and Federal agencies are preparing a DEIR/S on the BDCP; EPA has agreed to be a cooperating agency.

Related to the fishery decline, EPA plays a key science advisory role on the Pelagic Organism Decline (POD) workgroup, a group of agency scientists overseeing a \$10 million effort to investigate the causes of the dramatic decline of four key fish species over the last three years.

To address water quality concerns, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley and Bay Regional Water Quality Control Boards developed a Bay Delta Strategic Workplan in 2008 which includes several of their ongoing efforts, as well as some new work.....

##### Upcoming activities:

Several key decisions are under consideration by various state and federal agencies. EPA plays some role in each:

- In the long-term, how much water is conveyed from north to south through the Delta vs. through a new conveyance facility around the Delta (i.e. "the Peripheral Canal"). How should this new facility be designed and operated in light of predictions for sea level rise?
- Given the changing weather and Sierra runoff patterns, what new storage is needed, where, how much, how ought it be operated and who ought to pay for it?.

- In the near-term, what additional regulatory requirements under ESA and the CWA are needed to reverse the decline of pelagic and salmonid species?

- Should urban development continue to be permitted below sea level development around edges of Delta, given the state of the levee system and the risk of flooding, as well as future rise in sea level.

- governance?

Key Messages and Talking Points:

· EPA has long been involved in numerous efforts to protect and restore San Francisco Bay-Delta water quality. In the next year, our activities will include.....

· We will continue to work cooperatively with our agency partners and stakeholders to restore the critical Bay-Delta ecosystem while recognizing the competing needs of all stakeholders.

Contact:

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